

Having, thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

- 1     1.           A coupling cover apparatus for covering a shaft coupling of a personal watercraft  
2           having a craft body, a hull, an engine disposed at a central portion of the craft body and a jet  
3           propeller disposed at a stern thereof, wherein the watercraft also includes a propeller shaft for  
4           said jet propeller, wherein said propeller shaft is connected to a crankshaft of said engine at a  
5           shaft coupling;  
6                 said coupling cover apparatus provided for covering the ends of said crankshaft  
7           and said propeller shaft from above and on the left and right sides thereof, said coupling  
8           cover apparatus comprising:  
9                 a first cover section for removably attaching to said engine or to said hull, and  
10                a second cover section for removably attaching to said first cover section, and for  
11           cooperating therewith to cover said shaft coupling.
- 1     2.           The coupling cover apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first cover section comprises a  
2           hose support cradle for a water hose.
- 1     3.           The coupling cover of claim 2, wherein the hose support cradle is formed as an integral  
2           part of said first cover section.
- 1     4.           The coupling cover of claim 1, wherein the second cover section can be temporarily  
2           removed from the watercraft without requiring removal of the first cover section.

1 5. The coupling cover of claim 4, wherein removal of the second cover section gives  
2 sufficient access to the shaft coupling to allow maintenance of said coupling without  
3 requiring removal of the first cover section.

1 6. The coupling cover of claim 1, wherein one of said first and second cover sections  
2 comprises an anchor post extending outwardly from a top central portion thereof, and the  
3 other of said first and second cover sections has a mounting hole formed in a top central  
4 portion thereof for receiving said anchor post therein to aid in aligning said first and second  
5 cover sections.

1 7. The coupling cover of claim 1, wherein said second cover section comprises a  
2 positioning lip extending outwardly from a top central portion thereof, for placement  
3 overlapping a top central portion of said first cover section.

1 8. The coupling cover of claim 1, wherein each of said first and second cover sections has  
2 an alignment tab formed on a side portion thereof to facilitate alignment of said cover  
3 sections with one another, each of said alignment tabs having a fitting hole formed  
4 therethrough to receive a fastener.

1 9. The coupling cover apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first cover section comprises  
2 an inclined fitting portion extending downwardly in a sloped configuration from an upper  
3 end proximate the front of the second cover section to a terminal part proximate the back of  
4 the first cover section in an assembled configuration of the coupling cover, and wherein the

5 second cover section comprises an inclined contacting portion substantially corresponding in  
6 shape to the inclined fitting portion.

1 10. The coupling cover of claim 8, further comprising at least two removable plastic  
2 rivets for placement through said fitting holes of said alignment tabs to temporarily and  
3 disengageably fasten said cover sections together in an aligned configuration.

1 11. The coupling cover of claim 9, wherein each of said first and second cover  
2 sections has an alignment tab formed on a side portion thereof to facilitate alignment  
3 of said cover sections with one another, each of said alignment tabs having a fitting  
4 hole formed therethrough to receive a fastener, and further wherein said alignment  
5 tabs are oriented to be substantially in line with said inclined fitting portion.

1 12. A coupling cover apparatus for covering a shaft coupling of a personal  
2 watercraft having a craft body, a hull, an engine disposed at a central portion of the  
3 craft body and a jet propeller disposed at a stern thereof, wherein the watercraft also  
4 includes a propeller shaft for said jet propeller, wherein said propeller shaft is  
5 connected to a crankshaft of said engine at a shaft coupling;

6 said coupling cover apparatus provided for covering the ends of said  
7 crankshaft and said propeller shaft from above and on the left and right sides  
8 thereof, said coupling cover apparatus comprising:

9 a first cover section for removably attaching to said engine or to said hull,  
10 and

11                   a second cover section for removably attaching to said first cover section  
12                   and for cooperating therewith to cover said shaft coupling;  
13                   wherein the first cover section comprises an inclined fitting portion  
14                   extending downwardly in a sloped configuration from an upper end proximate the  
15                   front of the second cover section to a terminal part proximate the back of the first  
16                   cover section in an assembled configuration of the coupling cover, and wherein  
17                   the second cover section comprises an inclined contacting portion substantially  
18                   corresponding in shape to the inclined fitting portion.

1    13.       The coupling cover apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first cover section comprises a  
2       hose support cradle for a water hose.

1    14.       The coupling cover of claim 14, wherein the hose support cradle is formed as an  
2       integral part of said first cover section.

1    15.       The coupling cover of claim 12, wherein the second cover section can be temporarily  
2       removed from the watercraft without requiring removal of the first cover section.

1    16.       The coupling cover of claim 15, wherein removal of the second cover section gives  
2       sufficient access to the shaft coupling to allow maintenance of said coupling without  
3       requiring removal of the first cover section.

1 17. The coupling cover of claim 12, wherein one of said first and second cover sections  
2 comprises an anchor post extending outwardly from a top central portion thereof, and the  
3 other of said first and second cover sections has a mounting hole formed in a top central  
4 portion thereof for receiving said anchor post therein to aid in aligning said first and second  
5 cover sections.

1 18. The coupling cover of claim 12, wherein said second cover section comprises a  
2 positioning lip extending outwardly from a top central portion thereof, for placement  
3 overlapping a top central portion of said first cover section.

1 19. The coupling cover of claim 12, wherein each of said first and second cover  
2 sections has an alignment tab formed on a side portion thereof to facilitate alignment  
3 of said cover sections with one another, each of said alignment tabs having a fitting  
4 hole formed therethrough to receive a fastener.

1 20. A method of using a coupling cover apparatus for a shaft coupling installed on  
2 a personal watercraft, comprising the steps of:  
3 a) removing a plurality of connecting fasteners from the coupling cover  
4 apparatus which connect first and second cover sections together;  
5 b) lifting the second cover section of said cover apparatus off of the  
6 first cover section while leaving the first cover section installed; and  
7 c) accessing the shaft coupling while the first cover section remains in  
8 place.